



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 30, 1999

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Doug Jensen 

RE: Field Inspection, Jerika Mine Project, M/045/013, Tooele County, Utah

Inspection Date: August 25, 1999
Conditions: Sunny and Warm
Participants: Jerry Prestwich, Owner; Mark Sensibaugh, USFS; Doug Jensen and Wayne Hedberg
DOGM

We met with Jerry and Mark in the town of Vernon from which Jerry led the way to the mine. We drove approximately a mile to the edge of town to a dirt road marked Benmore Road, where we turned right and traveled 4.4 miles to the Benmore (USFS) work camp, turned left towards the Little Creek Campground. Went past the campground, which was at the 7 mile marker. At 7.4 miles we crossed a cattle guard entering posted private property. At 8.3 miles we crossed another cattle guard leaving the private ground and immediately turned right. At 8.6 miles we turned right and crossed over Little Creek, and traveled thru some heavy willows. At the 10 mile mark we turned left on a rutted road which led to the mine which was another .7 miles above the main road.

The site was in some outcropping rocks with a small area of surrounding dumps. Most of the area had pretty well overgrown indicating that there had not been any work done in the area in some time. A number of small underground prospect diggings were evident scattered along about a 100' to 150' of rock outcrop. The original discovery and some of the openings were made in the early 1900's according to Mr. Prestwich. This disturbed area fell within the Jerika # 12 & 13 claims, which were the only claims still active within the group of 51 claims reflected in the original permit. Recreational use of the area was evidenced by an old camp fire ring and litter near the workings.

The purpose of the visit was a request by the owner to discuss reducing his permit from a large mine to a small mine. The initial permit was issued in 1980 when anything over two acres was considered a large mine. The owner's initial intention was to have a much larger operation, but due to the apparent lack of large amounts of mineralization, this never came to pass. Jerry indicated that his father and himself had done the work at the site and no work had been done in any the other areas within the claim block except for the work on Jerika 12 & 13. The disturbance in this area encompassed approximately 1.5 to 2 acres. This mine is presently covered by a USFS bond, \$2500 for the mine and \$5000 special use bond for the access road. The road bond was placed as originally the owner agreed to maintain the entire 10.8 miles of the road to the main highway. This was agreed to as the owner had

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wheeler trucks to haul his ore to a smelter. This event never came to pass and most of the roads appear to have been pre-existing.

Mark inquired about some work done on Jerika 25 which was reflected in some photographs he had that were dated from the 1980s. Jerry indicated that much of the area was previously worked in the 1930's and the Jerika claims covered some of these workings. We visited the work on the Jerika 25 claim, which seemed to somewhat match the 1980 photo. The disturbance was a trench 6' to 8' deep and about 15' wide. The trench was approximately 50' to 60' in length with a right angle trench that was about 30' long and 10' deep. The right angle trench could not be discerned from the early photo due to the angle at which the picture was taken so we were unable to say for sure that this was pre-existing.

Jerry indicated a willingness to reclaim the area around Jerika 12 & 13 in order to close this permit and recover his bond money. Mark indicated that the Forest Service could do that if he would reclaim the area around the old workings and they would probably release his road bond if he would touch up the .7 mile access road into the mine. Mark also indicated that a portion of the bond would be needed to be retained for reclamation success. Jerry seemed to feel that he could accomplish this work in the spring with the equipment available to him. Both Mark and myself advised him to try to get this work done this fall as the possibility of vegetation success was much better. Jerry indicated that he would try to put together a schedule and would contact us when he had this done.

The Division informed him that we would discuss his situation and decide whether we could revise his permit and reduce the fees to \$100 instead of the present \$350.

I contacted Mark on our return to the office on Friday, August 27 to discuss his thoughts on this project. We both agreed to the need to be present on site, as the work was being initiated, to direct the activity. This is needed because there are some disturbed areas that have good ground cover and additional disturbance at this time would do more harm than good. We both felt that we would like to see at least the deeper portion of the trench on Jerika 25 reduced, even though it was probably pre-law. It was felt that this was a safety issue as the area is a popular hunting area. Mark indicated that he could offer to release the entire bond with the completion of the reclamation as an enticement for Mr. Prestwich to do this extra work. The time and work involved would mostly be the time to move the cat to this area which would probably involve about an hour at the most.

I contacted Mr. Prestwich and explained what we had decided. He again indicated that he would try to put together a schedule and would contact us when he was ready.

jb
cc: Jerry Prestwich
Mark Sensibaugh, USFS, Uinta NF
M45-13.ins